



PLACER COUNTY
SHERIFF
CORONER-MARSHAL



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EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Thursday, April 21, 2005 3:30 p.m.
Date/Time of Occurrence: Wednesday, April 20, 2005 9:56 pm
Nature of Call: Burglar Stuck in Chimney (Video Available)
Location of Call: 8550 Trout Street, Kings Beach
For video, contact: Dena Erwin, CSO (530) 889-6922
Released by: Lt. John Addoms (530) 889-7856

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

After being stuck in a chimney for about 2 hours and being rescued by the North Tahoe Fire Department, Placer County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jose Francisco Martinez, 19, of Kings Beach for residential burglary.

Wednesday at 9:56 p.m., the Sheriff's Dispatch received a 9-1-1 call from a neighbor. He reported hearing screams coming from 8550 Trout Street in Kings Beach where the owners of the residence were away on vacation. He investigated and found a man stuck halfway down the chimney.

Both Fire Rescue and Sheriff's deputies and detectives responded. The fire department was forced to dismantle much of the chimney to free Martinez, causing approximately \$20,000 in damage. Martinez suffered only minor abrasions and did not require medical attention.

Investigators determined that Martinez was aware the residents were out of the area and attempted to make entry into the house through windows and doors, but was unsuccessful. Martinez found a ladder and climbed on the roof. He then attached a cable to the chimney and lowered his 5'4", 115 lb. frame down the chimney until he became stuck and had to yell for help.



Jose Francisco Martinez

Martinez was arrested and booked at the Placer County Jail for residential burglary and remains in custody pending \$25,000 bail.

**Copies of this press release are available on the Placer County Sheriff's
Department website at <http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff>**

Video taken during Martinez' rescue is available to members of the media upon request. Call Dena Erwin at (530) 889-6922.

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Department website at <http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff>**